

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00121 081247Z

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP

SUBJECT: SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO VISITS TO U.S.

REF: (A) 75 LISBON 7383, (B) 75 LISBON 7317, (C) MELTON/KELLY

TELECON 1/5/76, (D) LISBON 0075

SUMMARY: SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC LEADER
SA CARNEIRO ARE PLANNING U.S. VISITS AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE
SECRETARY. I RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY RECEIVE THEM AS IMPORTANT
GESTURE OF U.S. SUPPORT THROUGH DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD.
END SUMMARY.

1. POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD) SECRETARY-GENERAL SA
CARNEIRO TOLD AMBASSADOR RECENTLY THAT HE IS PLANNING TO VISIT
U.S. IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY. PPD LEADERS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED
IF THEY PREFER U.S. INVITATION OR PRIVATE VISIT. DEPT IS
ALREADY AWARE OF SOCIALIST (PS) LEADER MARIO SOARES'S PLANS TO
VISIT U.S. JAN 20-29 (REF D). BOTH PS AND PPD LEADERS HAVE TOLD
EMBASSY THAT PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO VISITS WOULD
BE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER.

2. MARIO SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO ARE THE TWO PRINCIPAL
DEMOCRATIC CIVILIAN LEADERS IN PORTUGAL. THE SOCIALISTS
ARE THE COUNTRY'S LEADING PARTY BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT
PPD COULD COME OUT AHEAD IN THE 1976 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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PAGE 02 LISBON 00121 081247Z

ELECTIONS.

3. I RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY AGREE TO SEE BOTH SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO. MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY AND OTHER KEY WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WILL PROVIDE VALUABLE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD. NOW THAT SOARES, SA CARNEIRO, AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC FORCES HAVE ACHIEVED SOME MEASURE OF SUCCESS AGAINST COMMUNIST THREAT, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DEMONSTRATE OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THEIR EFFORTS. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT SOARES LED THE DIFFICULT STRUGGLE LAST YEAR AGAINST COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE GOP. SA CARNEIRO HAS ALSO PLAYED A VIGOROUS ROLE IN OPPOSING COMMUNIST SUBVERSION; MOST RECENTLY HE HAS LED CAMPAIGN AGAINST PCP PARTICIPATION IN THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

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